

Message

From: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/12/2019 6:27:02 PM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]
Subject: 4.12.2019 MANAGEMENT UPDATE - CONFIDENTIAL AND INTENDED FOR MANAGERS ONLY

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4.12.2019 MANAGEMENT UPDATE – INTERNAL USE ONLY; THIS EMAIL MAY CONTAIN ENFORCEMENT/LEGAL SENSITIVE INFORMATION

MIT,

Greetings from Washington DC and the Ronald Reagan airport. It's been a terrific week but I am ready to be back in the Great State of Texas later tonight. Yes, I got to see Anne and she sends her best to everyone back home. I did give her a bit a grief for my 2.5 hour experience of testifying in front of the Texas Legislature last Friday (good practice/no fun). She is already making a positive impact in her new job (which of course, is no surprise to us) at Headquarters.

I have to kick off this note thanking I-Jung for agreeing to step-up and come over to help me (and Erin) out while I am serving as acting Region 6 administrator. It was a tough decision but I've decided not to move the director or deputies so that we can stay focused on a successful kick-off to our realignment. It's important that our realignment and upcoming move go smoothly. It will set the stage for our future. That said – I am going to rely on everyone's help if I am going to serve as both RA and DRA during this interim (and hopefully brief) period of time.

Honestly, the week has been a bit of a blur starting on Sunday with ECOS, chaired by our good friend Director Keogh from Arkansas. All of our states were present and lots of nice words about our work in Region 6. Next - the RA meeting hosted by Doug Benevento (former R8 RA) in his new role as senior advisor for regional operations. Administrator Wheeler joined the discussion to talk about several priorities. I had the opportunity to brief the Administrator, CoS Ryan Jackson and RA group on our work in the compliance assistance arena. It was well received and I came home with a few follow up assignments. The National Tribal Operations Committee meeting was held on Wednesday where I joined Shawn Howard and Governor Vigil (our NTOC members) to discuss our tribal programs. Administrator Wheeler also re-affirmed the EPA Indian Policy. Finally – I closed the week at the two-day Executive Management Council meeting with Henry Darwin. It was a full agenda to talk about important operational issues facing the Agency. I will work with Kim Ngo to find time for us to visit soon and expect that we will continue to have frequent MIT meetings so please watch for calendar invitations. We also heard from the FLAG (Robby Snowbarger is our rep.) Front Line Supervisors Advisory Group. P.S. If you are a new supervisor, I expect that you are connecting with FLAG and its work.

Our realignment kicks off this Sunday. Yeah! Thanks to everyone for your help, patience and problem-solving as we all work together to make this transition go smoothly. I will continue to work with AFGE to address any specific questions that they have for us. It is critical that each of you remain flexible and patient as we move through this process. I am depending on you. Please continue having conversations with employees, managers and supervisors for areas that you are gaining or losing in the realignment.

I know everyone has been keeping up with job postings for management and supervisors in the Region. Congratulations to both Craig and Maria. Craig Carroll has accepted the Emergency Management Branch Chief Position in the Superfund and Emergency Management Division. Maria Martinez has accepted the Permitting and Water Quality Branch Chief Position in the Water Division. We've made a few other decisions but I haven't been cleared to announce them yet.

Here is a copy of our weekly report to the Administrator.

Region 6 Weekly Update
4-11-2019

Hot Topics

Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) LLC, Deer Park, Texas

ITC continues operations to transfer materials from the damaged tanks and recover materials from Tucker Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel. About 5.8 miles of non-continuous riverbank has been impacted and materials are mostly contained by booming. The Ship Channel has been reopened with restrictions to commerce. Air monitoring continues and will be revisited once tanks are emptied. Water sampling also continues. Onsite storage of collected material and recovery water for testing and disposal is emerging as a challenge and options are being evaluated. Several public meetings are being planned during the upcoming Congressional recess. EPA has been invited to participate. [High Congressional and Media Interest](#)

Lowerline Radiation Site, New Orleans, Louisiana

On April 9, EPA conducted a site walk with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and City of New Orleans representatives. The site is the location of a hot spot Radium 226 (Ra-226) identified by the Department of Energy during a sweep of the area surrounding the Super Dome. It was suspected to be a seal-source, but following their attempt at excavation, only soil contaminated with significant amounts of Ra-226 was found below two layers of pavement, mixed with the original road base of shells last dealt with in the 1940s or early 1950s. The post excavation showed gamma radiation levels at significant levels in the street, even though shielded by more than two feet of soil and pavement. An Action Memo has been drafted and has been distributed for review, comment and concurrence.

Major Decisions and Events

Texas 2015 Ozone Infrastructure SIPs, Texas

By April 25, EPA anticipates a proposal approval of two Texas SIPs demonstrating that the existing Texas SIP satisfies the requirements for the CAA for transport elements and interstate and international pollution abatement.

Pueblo of Santa Ana TAS Application, New Mexico

By April 25, EPA anticipates final approval of the Santa Ana Pueblo's TAS application under CAA authority for Sections 105, 107(d)(3), 126, and 505(a)(2). The action will authorize the Pueblo to apply for funding under CAA 105 provisions and receive notifications of CAA permit applications.

2008 Ozone Standard Volatile Organic Compound SIP and Reasonably Achievable Control Technology, Houston/Galveston/Brazoria, Texas

By April 26, EPA anticipates final approval of the Texas' 2008 Reasonably Achievable Control Technology (RACT) demonstration for the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria non-attainment area.

Beaumont/Port Arthur Re-designation/Maintenance Plans for 1-hour and 1997 8-hour Ozone Standards, Beaumont/Port Arthur, Texas

By April 26, EPA anticipates proposed approval of Texas SIP revisions for the old 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone air quality standards for the Beaumont/Port Arthur area.

April 25 **Nuclear Weapon Accident/Incident Exercise 2019, Amarillo, Texas**

May 5-7 **Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**